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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8215

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Johnson and Roach

Read first time 01/24/2000. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article VII, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of Washington  
7 to read as follows:

8            Article VII, section 1. The power of taxation shall never be  
9 suspended, surrendered or contracted away. All tax increases must be  
10 specifically authorized by a majority vote of the people within the  
11 territorial limits of the authority proposing the tax increase. All  
12 taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of property within the  
13 territorial limits of the authority levying the tax and shall be levied  
14 and collected for public purposes only. The word "property" as used  
15 herein shall mean and include everything, whether tangible or  
16 intangible, subject to ownership. All real estate shall constitute one  
17 class: *Provided*, That the legislature may tax mines and mineral  
18 resources and lands devoted to reforestation by either a yield tax or  
19 an ad valorem tax at such rate as it may fix, or by both. Such  
20 property as the legislature may by general laws provide shall be exempt  
21 from taxation. Property of the United States and of the state,

1 counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and  
2 credits secured by property actually taxed in this state, not exceeding  
3 in value the value of such property, shall be exempt from taxation.  
4 The legislature shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to exempt  
5 personal property to the amount of three thousand (\$3,000.00) dollars  
6 for each head of a family liable to assessment and taxation under the  
7 provisions of the laws of this state of which the individual is the  
8 actual bona fide owner.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
10 notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four  
11 times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal  
12 newspaper in the state.

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